

I am here this morning to support House Bill 161. The Medical Marijuana Act that was passed in 2004 (by only 43% of registered voters, hardly a mandate) is so badly flawed that it cannot be fixed. It is important that we repeal it because neither of the so-called reform bills go far enough. And opportunists will find the loopholes and for them it will be business as usual.

A recent poll taken by Great Falls TV station KRTV now shows 58.2% favor repeal. 31.6% say leave it alone (I stat I find mind-boggling) and 10.2% say reform. A poll taken by Safe Kids/Safe Community shows similar results.

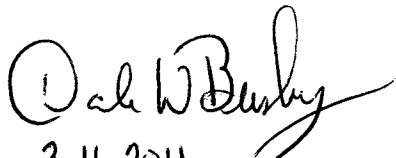
I've sent 2 e-mails to the members of this committee but in case you didn't get them, they are part of my hand-out that you can read at your leisure so I won't take up valuable time by reading them to you.

There are those who say regulation and taxation will be good. It will generate revenue that can be spent on programs that are facing cuts. We cannot tax and spend our way to prosperity. And there are things more important than money.

Marijuana is a stepping stone to harder drugs. When marijuana users are no longer satisfied with the high it gives them they move up. And we all know that most of the 30,000 card holders don't qualify. The simply ponied up the fee to be "examined" and received the recommendation and the state blindly rubber-stamped them and sent out the cards.

Having medical marijuana gives growers the ability to mass produce the product, much of which winds up the hands of those who don't "need it". And some of these people don't care about those they are servicing: They are legal drug dealers and are in it solely for the money and to produce a little extra so they can get high.

We need to repeal it and repeal it now.


3-11-2011
DALE W BUSBY

Subj: **Medical Marijuana Fees**
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In Saturday's (March 5th) edition of the *Great Falls Tribune* is an article written by Richard Ecke (Tribune Staff Writer) where two Great Falls men (Grant Grenfell and Ken Lindeman, caregivers) who say they "have a plan to stimulate senior citizen programs by using license fees from medical marijuana operations". Lindeman says, "We're focusing on the seniors and how we want to help them" What a load of BS. Lindeman also said, "conservatives like to look at dollars and cents". Thus, they support Senator Lewis's SB154 regulating medical marijuana.

I hope the Judiciary committee doesn't approach this with dollar signs in their eyes as Lindeman alluded..

Insanity is defined as trying the same things and expecting different results. Regulation, or should I say attempts at regulation, is only going to slow these people down, it won't stop them. They'll find the loopholes, and both HB 68 and SB154 have them.

If you feel the need to regulate then make it so full of red tape, so much bureaucracy and so restrictive and so high-priced they won't be able to operate and make a profit which is where these people are at. They don't care about those who it MIGHT help. They only care about 3 things. Be able to legally grow their own, get high, and make a bunch of money with little effort.

As I told the members of the House committee, IF you feel the need to reform it, regulate the daylight out of it and tax the crap out of it. From what I've seen the House is not in the mood for reform, they want repeal. And I'm glad you've not voted on SB154 yet, at least not until you have the hearings on HB 161. An all-out repeal is the only answer.

As I've said before if, and when, the federal government and FDA legalize it and approve it as "medicine" then we can revisit the issue.

But bottom line, right now it's still against federal law. Craig Ronzone of Seely Lake wrote a letter to the editor of the *Great Falls Tribune* and opined, "Article VI of the Constitution, also known as the Supremacy Clause, says federal law always trumps state laws. The state cannot make a less restrictive law than federal law." Since the Obama administration publicly announced they won't prosecute federal marijuana laws in states that have medical marijuana it's up to us. We have to repeal medical marijuana.

Mr Chairman, 3 of your committee members either don't list an e-mail address or what is listed isn't valid. I would appreciate it if you could print this out and insure all members get one. Those member are your vice-chairman Jim Shockley, and Senators Shannon Augare and Jeff Essman. I will e-mail this to those whose e-mail addresses I have and I will see you Friday morning at 8 o'clock.

Respectfully,

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cc: Senator Dave Lewis (sponsor of SD154)
 Senator Mitch Tropila (from my district)
 Speaker of the House Mike Milburn (sponsor of HB 161)

Subj: **HB 161**
 Date: 2/27/2011 2:54:34 P.M. Mountain Standard Time
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On March 11th your committee (Judiciary) is scheduled to hold hearings on this bill. I want you know that I intend to testify. I'll keep my comments brief since much of what I'll have to say is enclosed in this e-mail. The problem being some of you have not kept your e-mail addresses current on the Legislature's website.

That having been said, let me begin.

The public will believe anything, so long as it is not founded on truth.

Edith Sitwell

Those who like to remind us that 62% of voters approved this in 2004 are forgetting one important fact: that's 62% of those who went to the polls that day. The FACT is only 43% of registered voters voted FOR it. The other 57% either voted no or expressed no opinion (they didn't vote). In fact, some of those to did vote that day passed on that particular issue. Hardly the mandate the proponents would have you believe.

Some want to "reform it"; regulate it and tax it. That's fine and dandy but unfortunately I read HB 68 and while "adequate" in hardly goes far enough. As far as taxing it, quit looking at this issue with dollar signs in your eyes. This goes beyond money.

What follows is an e-mail I sent to member of the House Health Services committee and those from the Great Falls area delegation (where I live).

to Speaker of the House Milburn, the members of the Health Services Committee and the Great Falls delegation...

I was more than pleased to see that HB161 was passed out of committee and will be going the floor for debate and hopefully passing. (*which it did*) This is an important step to eradicate the unbelievably rapid rise in the easy availability and usage of a drug that is still deemed illegal by the federal government.

As Speaker Milburn pointed out the number of cardholders is almost equal to the population of our capital city. And this is unacceptable. Some people want reform and Rep Sands made an honorable attempt with HB68 but it doesn't go far enough and doesn't begin to close all the loopholes.

As I've said before there are some things that simply cannot be fixed. One person made the analogy it's liking closing the barn door after the horse is gone. We need to lasso that horse, put him back in the barn and slam the door shut and lock it. In the army we had the term "fubar" and it is appropriate to describe what the voters naively passed in 2004.

The media likes to say the voters overwhelmingly approved it. Not so. Only 43% of registered voters actually voted for it. The other 57% either voted no or expressed no opinion (aka they didn't vote or they voted but passed on that issue). You will have the chance to correct this. What he have is NOT what the voters envisioned.

People like Jason Christ proudly announcing he's almost always high and I saw him wondering the halls as a "lobbyist". Yeah, we need people under the influence out in

public. Isn't there a law relating to public intoxication be it by alcohol or drugs? When I was a deputy sheriff in Kansas we had a DUI statute that defined it as "driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs". Key word here is drugs.

One man who testified before the committee on HB68 said he didn't like pharmaceutical pain killers because they made him "loopy". And marijuana doesn't? Are you kidding me? I've seen so stoned they could barely function. It would be acceptable if the just used enough to ease their pain, but you and I both know that doesn't happen. And to have so many cardholders; are we Montanans that sick? That's a lot of people with debilitating and chronic aches and pains.

But I don't want to reform the "industry", I want to put it out of business.

Some people say it's less harmful than alcohol and we allow that; should we bring back prohibition. I'm the wrong person to say that to because my response is, "Fine. I don't drink so it wouldn't bother me at all."

I urge you to vote to pass this bill. It's the right thing to do. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Since I sent that it did pass 63-37.

Here is one of the many crazy by-products of our current medical marijuana laws. Can you believe the youngest medical marijuana card holder in Montana is 2 years old? Someone smokes the pot then blows it in his face. Nice. I thought this was fiction until I saw the father almost bragging on KRTV newcast about how it was a miracle drug. We still don't know the long-term effects of marijuana on a still-forming brain.

It's amazing that opium and cocaine are considered less additive and more medically useful, according to the federal controlled substance schedule at <http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/scheduling.html> , than marijuana - they are Schedule II, marijuana is Schedule I - yet we don't see these drugs legally grown or produced by non-licensed amateurs in backyards and basements, subjected to no FDA requirements, distributed from hotel rooms, and administered at home unsupervised by physicians. We don't see people running around with Medical Opium cards. We regulate alcohol and tobacco, but we say "have at it!" to marijuana?

The number of cardholders almosts equals the population of Helena. Sad thing is the vast majority of them don't qualify -- it's just a way to legally possess pot and get high.

We need to repeal it until such time as the federal goverment/FDA approves it as medicine and then strictly regulates who can provide it to legitimate pharmacies where it is dispensed with a real prescription.

Respectfully

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